

*W.P.M. Kennedy*

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VI

THE EDWARDIAN  
INVENTORIES FOR  
BEDFORDSHIRE

EDITED

BY

F. C. EEELES, F.S.A. Scot.

*From Transcripts*

BY

The Rev. J. E. BROWN, B.A.

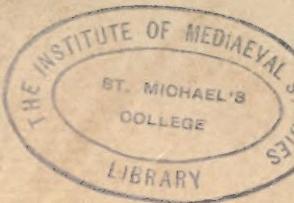
*Vicar of Studham*

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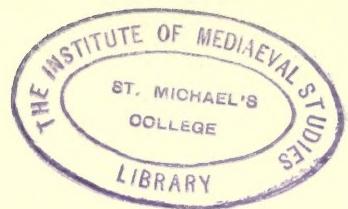
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## PREFACE.

THE political exigences of Henry VIII's breach with the Pope caused him to suppress the English monastic houses, with the twofold end of crushing that part of the body spiritual which was the strongest bulwark of papal power in England, and of obtaining lands to grant to the nobility, so that he might secure their favour and support. Begun in 1535 under the pretext of suppressing some of the lesser houses on account of their corruption, this policy of sacrilege went on until every religious house was gone, and in 1545 it was extended to colleges, chantries and free chapels, although it seems that the seizure of the plate and ornaments of these latter did not take place until early in the reign of Edward VI. It is easy to see that this work of sacrilege and confiscation was not likely to stop short of the parish churches, and it began to be extended to them at the very beginning of the reign of Edward VI. Enquiries as to the goods of parish churches were made of the bishops in 1547, and early in 1549 a commission for making inventories was issued to sheriffs and justices of the peace. On 3rd March 1551 it was ordered by the Privy Council "that for as muche as the Kinge's Majestie had neede presently of a masse of mooney, therfore Commissions shulde be addressed into all shires of Englande to take into the Kinges handes suche churche plate as remaigneth, to be emploied unto his highnes use."<sup>1</sup> This however was not done immediately. On 29th January 1552 a letter was addressed to each custos rotulorum requiring the delivery of the inventories which had been made under the commissions of 1549. A commission to make new inventories and stop all private embezzlement was issued on 16th May 1552,<sup>2</sup> and it was under

<sup>1</sup> *Acts of the Privy Council of England, N.S. iii (1550-1552)* p. 228.

<sup>2</sup> For full text see below, p. ix.

this commission that most of the inventories now at the Public Record Office were taken, including those printed in the earlier part of the present volume. A new commission was issued on 16th January 1553 directing the actual seizure of all the valuables, only the barest necessaries being left for the use of each church.<sup>1</sup> The result of this was that the plate was sent to the Jewel House in the Tower of London and melted down, the vestments and the inferior metal work were sold locally, the linen given to the poor. Thus the sacrilege was complete. The lead and bells do not seem to have been actually taken.<sup>2</sup>

A necessary accompaniment of this wholesale seizure of ecclesiastical property was of course the taking of careful inventories of it. A great number of these still remain, ranging in date from 1536, when those of the religious houses begin, until 1553—the date of the latest Edwardian returns for parish churches. This great series of 16th century inventories, despite its shameful origin, is of the highest legal, historical and liturgical importance. No other country can show the like. Notwithstanding their obvious value, little more than half the inventories have hitherto been printed, and some of these are in comparatively rare publications which are not easy of access.

Until all such inventories are printed accurately and published in an accessible way, it is impossible to form a just estimate of their contents, or to write a detailed history of the spoliation of our churches by Henry VIII and Edward VI, or indeed to deal properly with the subject of church furniture and ornaments in the 16th century in England as a whole. This the Alcuin Club

<sup>1</sup> This commission has often been printed: see *Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, London, 1846, Appendix II., p. 307, or *Surtees Society* vol. 97, p. 4, or *Book of Common Prayer* with notes by A. J. Stephens, London 1849, vol. i., p. 356, or *Church Goods in Berkshire*, by Walter Money, Oxford, 1879, p. xxxii.

<sup>2</sup> By far the best account of the spoliation at present available is that written by Mr. Page and prefixed to his invaluable book of *Inventories of Church Goods for the Counties of York, Durham and Northumberland*, *Surtees Society*, vol. 97.

intends to do as soon as it is practicable, but it is obviously impossible while half the material is lying scattered in MS. at the Record Office. The Committee therefore is first addressing itself to the work of getting all the material transcribed, and printed in an accessible form. In some cases it is hoped that the inventories may be printed by local archaeological societies : where nothing else is possible the club will endeavour to do it, but from the expensive character of the work it is doubtful how much will be able to be done unless financial help comes in from outside.

As a first instalment the Edwardian inventories for the county of Bedford are now published. The transcripts have been made by the Rev. J. E. Brown, and collated with the originals by Mr. F. C. Eeles, who is also responsible for the introduction.

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE EDWARDIAN INVENTORIES FOR BEDFORDSHIRE.

VERY few of the Edwardian inventories for Bedfordshire have come down to us; only 14 of those taken in 1552, from a total of about 125 parish churches. They were the result of the following Commission, under which most of the later Edwardian inventories were made. This document has often been printed before, but as it is given in full for Bedfordshire on the Patent Roll, the alterations as to names required to adapt it for other counties being indicated at the end, it has been thought well to print it once again.

*Rot. Pat. 6 Edw. VI. p. 7, m. 12 in dorso.*

Edward the syxt &c. To our deare Cousyn and Counsailour William Marques of Northampton great Chamberleyne of Englund and to our trustie and right welbeloved John Lord Braye and to our trustie and welbeloved John Seynt John and Uryan Brereton Knightes and to our welbeloved Lewes Dyve and Richard Snowe Esquyers greeting | Whereas We have at sundry tymes heretofore by our speciall Commyssion and otherwyse commaunded that ther shuld be takyn and made a just veu survey and inventory of all maner goodes plate juelles vestmentes belles and other ornamentes within every paryshe belongyng or in any wyse apperteynyng to any Churche Chapell Brothered Gylde or Fraternyt within this our Ralme of Englund and upon the same inventory so taken had or made our commaundement was and hathe ben that all the same goodes plate juelles vestmentes belies and other ornamentes shuld be safely kept and appoyncted to the charge of such persons as shuld kepe the same safely and be ready to aunswere to the same at all tymes according to the whiche our Commyssyons and sundry Commaundements. We were advertysed by our said Commyssioners then appoyncted and by other meanes

also that the said goodes plate juelles vestymentes belles and other ornamente of the said Churches Chapelles Brotherhedges Gyldes Fraternytes and Companyes were not only viewed and duly surveyd but also that the inventories thereof were made by indenture and thon part of the same remayned with our Custos Rotulorum of that Countye or hys deputye or Clerke of the peax at that tyme being and the other part with the churche-wardens and such men as had the charge of the same goodes and other inventories also made by our commaundement by our Busshopes and their ecclesiastical Officers were lykewyse by them retorne hyther to our Counsaill : yet nevertheless for that we be informed that somme part of the said goodes plate juelles belles and ornamente of Churches be in somme places embeselled or removed contrarye to our former expresse commaundements and manyfestlye to the contempt and derogacion of our honour in that behalfe We have thought mete to have the very truthe herin justly and duly knownen to thintent the same may be as ys most necessarye redressed and furthwith reformed. And for that purpose for the good knowledge and experyence had in your trustynes faithfulnes wisdome and uprightnes we have appoynted you to be our speciall Commyssioners and by auctoryty herof do name appoynt and auctoryse you four or three of you to take and receave a due full and just view of all goodes plate juelles belles and ornamente of every Churche and Chapell in whose hands soever the same be belonging or in any wyse apperteynyng to any the said Churches Chapelles Gyldes Brotherhedges or Fraternyties within that our Countie of Bedford. And upon the said view so taken to cause a true just and full perfect inventorye to be made of the same and to compare the same with the best of the former inventories heretofore made and remaynyng with the said Churchwardens or suche other as then hadd the same in charge. And for the defaultes and wantes yf any shalbe eyther of the said plate juelles belles vestymentes or any other ornamente or any part of theym any maner of wyse to make diligent inquryre and serche as well by the othes of suche honest men as

ye shall thinke mete to sweare therfore as any other convenient meanes to knowe and understand by whose default the same hath bene removed embesiled aliened or dimynyshed. And also in whose possession the same thinges or any part therof so spoiled removed embeselled or demynysshed do remayne or to whose use the money and profett therof ys made or is comme according to the further meanyng of certen instrucions sent to you herewith and of your hole doynges in this behalf to retorne unto us and our Pryvey Counsaill in wryting your answeare accordingly. And yf ye shall fynde any person or persons that wilfully or stubburnlye will refuse to obey any precept or commaundement which you our said Commyssioners foure or three of you shall geve unto theym in or about the execucion of the premisses that then we gyve unto you full power auctorytie to commytt every suche person or persons to warde and pryon ther to remayne without baill or maynprice untyll suche tyme as you shall think the same ymprisonment to be condigne for his or their offences. Wherfore Wee will and commaunde you and every of you to attende and execute the premyses accordinglye and moreover Wee will and commaund all and singuler Mayours Shereffes Bayllyffes Constables Hedboroughes all Curates Parsons Vicars Churchwardens and all other our Offecers Minysters and faithfull Subjectes that they and every of them be ayding helping counsailling assisting and furthering you in and aboute the due execucion herof as they tender our pleasure and will aunswer to the contrarye at ther extreme perells. In Witnes wheroft &c. TR apud [sic].

[Westmonasterium, xvij die Maij.]

Fiant consimiles separales Commissiones directae personis subscriptis in Com[itatibus] Ciuitatibus Episcopat[ibus] et Villis subscriptis.

Bedford.

The Marquess of Northampton.

The Lord Braye.

Syr John Saynt John.

Syr Uryan Breton.

Richard Snowe.

Lewes Dyve.

Besides these fourteen Edwardian inventories, there is a series of documents connected with the attempt which was made in Queen Mary's reign to rescue for church use those ornaments which had been privately embezzled or unlawfully made away with. These documents are of great interest and are given in full.

The inventory of Woburn Abbey taken in 1537—the only extant Bedfordshire example of the earlier returns—has been printed as Appendix I.

The Bedfordshire inventories are written in various hands upon sheets of paper of different sizes and they are now indexed at the Record Office as Exchequer King's Remembrancer Church Goods 1<sup>1</sup> and are tied up in a single bundle, except those for Farndish (Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods 1) and Tilsworth (Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods 2) which are separate. The Woburn inventory (Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods 3) has been carefully bound into a book among other similar inventories.

Several of the following documents now appear in print for the first time. The rest were printed in *Bedfordshire Notes and Queries*.<sup>1</sup> It has been thought well to give them again because *Bedfordshire Notes and Queries* is such an exceedingly scarce publication, and the edition of them given there is by no means accurate.

Exact literal accuracy has been observed in the printing of these documents, but nearly all contractions have been extended. Capital letters have been uniformly used for all proper names, and small letters have been substituted for many unnecessary capitals in the originals. The letters "di" (really a contraction for the Latin *dimidia* = half) have been allowed to remain unaltered. As the spelling is so very erratic throughout it has been thought unnecessary to use the symbol (†) to indicate places where unusual spellings or apparent mistakes have been retained. The signatures of the commissioners appear in full at the end of each inventory, but they have only been printed in full under the first. In printing some of the long depositions of witnesses among the Marian documents, it has been thought well to introduce commas to facilitate reading, in place of the

<sup>1</sup> Vol. i., p. 277, Bedford, 1886.

hurried strokes and dots of the originals. The inventories are arranged in alphabetical order under the hundreds in which the churches are situated. Ten out of the fourteen are in the hundred of Manshead, in the south western part of the county ; of the rest two are from the hundred of Wixamtree, and one each from those of Barford and Redbornestoke. The hundreds of Biggleswade, Clifton, Flitt, Stodden and Willey are unrepresented.

A revising hand, presumably that of one of the commissioners, appears to have been over each inventory, correcting occasional mistakes and adding a sentence to the effect that the goods were committed to the custody and keeping of certain of the churchwardens.

These few Bedfordshire inventories contain little that is remarkable. As usual in inventories of this kind very few patens are specified. They are evidently intended to be included when chalices are mentioned. One tin chalice<sup>1</sup> is recorded—at Husborne Crawley—and there was one of copper gilt at Eversholt. The material of the chalices of Cranfield and Farndish is not specified, although it was evidently silver, as the weights are given. Candlesticks are only recorded at five out of the fourteen churches—two in each case, except at Cranfield, where four are mentioned, probably pairs for two altars. Censers are recorded at six

<sup>1</sup> "Tin" chalices were not common at this time, although they are occasionally to be found in inventories; copper ones were also rather scarce. But it is more than probable that by "tin" the mediæval writers meant what is called pewter now. A canon in the *Decretum* attributed to a council of Rheims (? A.D. 819) while requiring chalices to be of gold or silver, allowed the use of tin in cases of poverty (*De cons., dist. i, c. Et calix.*) But in 1175 Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, forbade tin "ne stanneum calicem aliquis episcopus ammodo benedicat interdicimus" and his constitution was adopted as part of the canon law in England (G. Lindewode *Provinciale lib. iii., tit. De celeb. miss. c. Precipimus*). Lindewode (tit., *De summa trin.*, c. *Altissimus*, v. *In calice*) goes further, and says that copper ought not to be used, but after quoting Archbishop Richard against tin saying "nunquid licet conficerre in calice stagneo" he ends by saying that the constitution of the archbishop is to be interpreted in accordance with the Rheims canon, and therefore allows tin *propter paupertatem*.

churches—two in each case, with a ship at Eaton Socon. Latten basons, presumably for washing the celebrant's hands, are mentioned at Hulcote and Westoning, there being two at the latter.<sup>1</sup> Three pixes are recorded<sup>2</sup>—one of latten, one of copper and one of copper gilt, but only one pax, one lamp, and one stock for holy water.

The churches were well supplied with bells, Harlington and Eaton Socon having as many as five, six churches having four and the rest three.<sup>3</sup> At Husborne Crawley they had “j hanbell and a saunce bell.” In some cases “hanbell” may mean the bell rung in front of the procession at funerals in contradistinction to the sacring bell rung at the altar. As a general rule in England of old the “saunce” bell was a comparatively large bell which hung outside the church, either in the tower with the other bells or in a bell-cot by itself, and it was used at the elevation whether a small handbell was rung at the altar or not. That “saunce bell” meant an outside bell is well shown in one of the Marian documents printed below, where a complaint is made that one John Leventhorpe had embezzled a saunce bell at Meppershall “Imprimis he had a saunce bell hangyng in the belfrey and converted the same to his owne use.” Here the saunce bell clearly must have hung in the belfry with the other bells: the words “hangyng in the

<sup>1</sup> They may possibly have been used as alms basons, or for the adorning of the altar. Two basons were left by will in 1502 to St. Mary Woolnoth, London, to serve both these purposes. See Mr. Micklethwaite's *Ornaments of the Rubric*, Alcuin Club Tract no. 1, p. 41. Cf. also the inventory, taken in 1540, of Thornton Curtis Priory, Lincolnshire, which contains the entry “Item ij little altar basons of silver weinge unc' . . . xvij” (*Proc. of Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, no. xliv., vol. x., p. 484). At Toddington in this county they had “a litle sylver dishe” as appears from one of the Marian documents printed below, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Two more are mentioned in the Marian documents—one at Luton and the other at Toddington. The former was “a pixe of silver and gylte with a doble glasse” *i.e.*, probably a monstrance with a glass cylinder used for processions of the Holy Eucharist, *e.g.*, upon Palm Sunday.

<sup>3</sup> vide *Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, by Thomas North, London, 1883, *passim*.

belfrey" cannot have been used of a handbell rung at the altar. They had a handbell at Meppershall which was sold for sixteen pence; the "saunce bell" was said to be "worthe to be sold iiiij markes or there aboughtes." "Sacring bell" in a mediæval inventory generally means a handbell rung by the clerk at the altar, either as well as or instead of the outside bell.

Vestments for deacon and subdeacon are mentioned only at Eaton Socon, but at Stagsden those of red silk are specified as a suit. The term "vestment" included so much, that it is probable that most of the other churches had tunicles, and even other ornaments such as frontals and curtains, which are not mentioned separately. The preponderance of the colour green is noticeable; the red vestments, as is commonly the case, exceeded in number those of any other colour except green, but here the green vestments are fourteen as against eleven red ones.<sup>1</sup>

In two cases white vestments are recorded which were probably used during the first four weeks of Lent—one of bustian at Harlington, and one of fustian at Tilsworth. Only one tawny—*i.e.* probably yellow—vestment is mentioned, and only one black one.<sup>1</sup> The descriptions are very meagre and nothing is said about the occasions on which the different colours were used.

In the inventory of Woburn Abbey, 1537, in Appendix I., we find black "for masse of requiem" "white fustian for Lent." There is also the entry "ij old

<sup>1</sup> Bedfordshire was in the diocese of Lincoln in the middle ages, and no colour sequence for Lincoln use has come down to us; at present we only know of a very fragmentary rule in the late 13th century Consuetudinary of Bishop Gravesend. Some light may perhaps be thrown upon the practice—if there ever was any "use"—of the diocese, when it is possible to make an analysis of the colours of all the vestments recorded in the Edwardian inventories, but even this is doubtful. On the whole subject of English liturgical colours see *Notes on the History of the Liturgical Colours*, by Dr. J. Wickham Legg, in *Transactions of St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society* vol. i., p. 95 and *On the English Liturgical Colours* by Mr. St. John Hope in vol. ii., p. 233 of the same: also *On English Liturgical Colours* by Mr. Cuthbert Atchley, on p. 89 of *Essays on Ceremonial*, Library of Liturgiology, vol. iii., London, Moring, 1904.

chesybilles for vestments" which shows that the word "vestment" was not synonymous with "chasuble"; the chasuble, in fact, formed one part of the "vestment," which was made up of many separate pieces.

The curious word "dubbings" is used in connection with albes in the Cranfield inventory. It evidently signifies the apparels.

Of copes, seven blue are recorded, five green, four red, besides others. Here again the large number of green is noticeable. There was one of "russet worset" at Houghton Regis, and one of linen, the colour of which is not given.

There is often some difficulty in knowing whether "altar cloths" in an English inventory mean "frontals" or the linen cloths. Frontals were often called by some other name, and the linen cloths were often called towels. Here a careful examination shows that the frequently mentioned "altar cloths" are the linen cloths. They are sometimes specified as being of linen. The towels are probably what we should call towels. Frontals seem to be referred to as "hangings," though at Stagsden they are called "frunts" and the upper frontals "counter fruntes." At Eversholt however "a coveryng for the auter of olde tawny sylke" probably describes a frontal.<sup>2</sup>

The following entry in the Eversholt inventory is interesting:—

"Item ann awter clothe of grene sylke which is a coveryng for the funte."

It shows that a silk font veil was actually in use at Eversholt when the inventory was taken. At the same time the Eversholt people had made six curtains of dornix into "iiij playing cootes."

"A vayll of lynnyn clothe" at Eaton Socon and "a sheate" at Eversholt are probably Lent veils; so too

<sup>1</sup> A few more vestments are mentioned in the Marian documents, including one of Lyons blue at Meppershall, a crimson velvet cope at Houghton Conquest, and vestments for deacons and subdeacons at Willington.

<sup>2</sup> "A fronte of red braunched dammaske" was provided at Houghton Conquest, early in the reign of Mary, *v. below*, p. 28.

the veil and “the coveryng for the roode” mentioned as embezzled at Meppershall; see below, p. 17.

In seven of the fourteen churches we find the ornament known as the cross cloth mentioned, and in three of these cases there were two cross cloths. Cross cloths were small banners hung to the processional cross; they were not allowed according to strict Salisbury use, and in that diocese they do not seem to have been employed. They were a common part of the general English use, although they were not found where the local peculiarities of Sarum prevailed. Of these ten Bedfordshire examples four are green, one is red, and the colours of the rest are not given.

Rochets, presumably for the clerks, are mentioned at Houghton Regis and Westoning. Only eleven surplices are mentioned, of which four were at Houghton Regis, and only fifteen albes, of which nine were at Cranfield. In most places the albes, were probably included with the vestments; the Cranfield inventory is more detailed, and specifies the albes with the vestments. In the other cases, where albes are mentioned by themselves, they were very likely used by the clerks, and did not belong to the sets of vestments. In only one instance.—Stagsden—is an amice specified.

Unlike inventories made by the church authorities, these Edwardian inventories very often do not specify all that the churches possessed. They give everything on which money could be raised, and usually a few valueless things besides, but it is easy to see that the commissioners were not particular to record every thing that was of no value. For example at Farndish neither altar cloth nor corporal is mentioned, and although there were a vestment and two copes, no surplice is mentioned. Now even by the Prayer Book of 1552 the linen altar cloth and the surplice are required, and Farndish church certainly must have possessed them. Corporals indeed are only specified at three out of fourteen churches and surplices only at five. The fact is, these ornaments were of little or no value, and were sometimes specified, sometimes passed over. The same is probably the case with frontals and curtains, and perhaps some other things;

when of value they were entered, sometimes when of no value, but in the latter case they were almost as often left unnoticed.

It is clear that the Edwardian inventories cannot be looked upon as giving an absolutely exhaustive survey of church ornaments. They omit many that were of no pecuniary value. They also omit many things which must have existed, but which had been safely hidden or successfully embezzled. For example, at Westoning we find a cross cloth mentioned, but no cross to hang it on. It must have existed; perhaps they hid it, or perhaps some one had made away with it. So with pixes; every church was bound to have one, but only three out of these fourteen inventories mention them. Cruets are not mentioned at all in any of these inventories; they may have been worthless in many cases or stolen or hidden in others; but they obviously must have existed.

While it is necessary to bear all this in mind, it is equally necessary to remember that there were certain ornaments, such as censers, *textus* for gospels and epistles, silk offertory veils, etc., which many parish churches never seem to have possessed at all. On the other hand, because candlesticks are not mentioned at certain places, we must not conclude that the canon law rule *sine lumine non celebretur* was broken. Candles may have stood in iron pricket candlesticks that were not worth entering in an inventory; or they may have been placed at the ends of the curtain rods; or more likely a single torch upon a worthless wooden stick was held in his hand by the clerk, or stuck in a hole in the pavement close to the altar.<sup>1</sup>

The Marian documents here given form a long series belonging to the commission of enquiry as to the embezzlement of church goods, which was instituted early in Mary's reign with a view to rescuing as much as possible for the benefit of the churches which had been robbed.

<sup>1</sup> See for example Alcuin Club Collection i. *English Altars*, plate viii. no. i., or Collection ii., *Exposition de la Messe*, plates 8 and 9, or Collection v., *Dat Boexken van der Missen*, plate xx., p. 86, where the torch may be seen standing in a hole in the ground.

Of these the first few relate to Meppershall. There is a note giving particulars of ornaments embezzled there by one Thomas Stringer, wherein it is said he ‘hath also serteyne other albes and altar clothes and will not restore the same. And when the pore demaunde the same he revileth them and caleth them begarly knaves and evill entreteth them.’

This reference to the poor demanding the linen is explained by the fact that the last Edwardian commission (16th January 1553), while requiring the delivery of plate into the king’s jewel house and the sale of valuables for his benefit, directed the commissioners “to dystribute . . . to the poor people in every parysh . . . the resydue of the lynnен ornaments and ymplements of the said churches and chapeles, in suche order and sort as may be most to Godes glory and our honor.”

A marginal note in another hand directs that the same Thomas [Stringer] should be bound to provide a new canopy of sarceanet or satin of Bridges “on thisside the furst of Aug[ust],” and another note states that he paid £2 14s 8d into the hands of the commissioners as the value of a chalice and a cope which he had sold.

There are similar documents relating to several other churches in which various ornaments are incidentally mentioned, together with the names of persons held to be responsible for their disappearance. Among them are some references to Luton, in which occurs the name of John Gynneth, vicar from 1537 to 1558, an adherent of the old learning, well known for his *Book of twenty Songs set to Music*, printed in 1530. When applying for the degree of Doctor of Music in 1531, he stated that he had composed “all the responses of the whole year in division song, and had published three masses of five parts and five masses of four, as also certain symphonies, antiphonas, and divers songs for the use of the Church.”<sup>1</sup>

There are also other documents regarding the Meppershall affair; they include the summons of the

<sup>1</sup> See *Luton Church, Historical and Descriptive*, H. Cobbe, London 1899, [prepared for publication and edited by the Rev. Percy Dearmer] which contains a mass of valuable information relating to the church history of the district, including some notes on Bedfordshire Chantries (p. 566), and some allusions to vestments at Luton (p. 578).

commissioners to Stringer to appear before them at Westminster, a letter from a certain man named Hemyng, living at Arlesey, to the commissioners, excusing Stringer from appearing before them on the ground of his being "an olde man and not used to journey," and saying that he and some other local commissioners had had Stringer before them and examined him. Stringer's own version of the matter follows—evidently the deposition he had made before Hemyng—in which he excuses himself, and blames a certain John Leventhorpe for embezzling the church goods.

Interesting light upon mediæval custom is thrown by the long series of documents relating to Willington which concludes the Marian papers. From these it appears that the vicar of Willington in Edward VI's time had presented a certain Thomas Verney<sup>1</sup> as being responsible for the disappearance of some vestments and plate from the church. The Marian commissioners, who were endeavouring to rescue embezzled church goods and return them to the respective churches, caused evidence to be taken locally in regard to this Willington matter, and the depositions of the various witnesses are here given. They knew nothing at all about the vestments specified and they were unanimous in saying that the other ornaments did not belong to the church at all, but were the private property of the squire of Willington, Sir John Gostwike, who used to lend them to the church for festivals. One of the witnesses, an old servant of Sir John Gostwike's, deposed that "as to the crosse of syllver and gyllt enameled, a payre of cruettes of sillver, a chalece of syllver and parsell gillt, . . . the same Sir John Gostwik hadd of his own propre goods, and sometimes the said Sir John wolld commaund the same at hiethe festivall days to be browght to the churche, and ther to be sett on the hiethaulter, and used and occupied to the better adorninge and decoratinge of the churche, to the greter honor and glory of God. And at every suche tyme he wolld have the same crosse, cruettes, and chalice brought home in to his house of Willington at or

<sup>1</sup>A note about Verney and these ornaments will be found in one of the other documents, p. 25.

before the night of the same day and the same were keppt in the custody of him, that had the rest of his platte and was accompted of all men as his own propre goodes and platte." This is a very interesting instance of the old custom of decking the altar with plate (in this case, be it noted there was only plate and no reliquaries) which survived the Reformation and came down to our own day.

One of the witnesses examined in the Willington affair was William Fayry "yoman of the agge of fifty yeares or ther aboute, and howshold servaunte withe Sir John Gostwike for the space of xiiiij yeares." He was perhaps connected with the family of this name whom one finds at Dunstable about fifty years earlier, where a certain Henry Fayrey who died in 1516 gave a magnificent red and gold herse cloth to the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist. This herse cloth is embroidered with the names of Henry, Agnes, John and Mary Fayrey, the merchants' mark of John Fayrey and the arms of the Mercers' Company, of which John Fayrey was a member. It is still preserved at Dunstable, and is one of the few old church ornaments remaining in Bedfordshire. It was proposed at one time to illustrate it here, together with the lectern at Leighton Buzzard and the mediæval reredoses at Arlesey, Cople, and Eaton Bray, but it was eventually decided that proper justice could not be done to it in so small a book, and that pictures of existing ancient ornaments could be issued to better advantage in collections by themselves, than intermixed with bulky documents such as inventories.

Appendix I contains that part of the inventory of the Cistercian Abbey of Woburn which includes the church goods. It was taken in August 1537. The church appears to have been very poor, as it contained but little. There were "ij lynyn alter clothes upon the alter and on steyned alter cloth hangyng before the alter" and "ij laten candelstykes stondyng before the high alter" none apparently standing upon it. The "white vestment with a crucyfyx upon it" is a case of a vestment with a Latin cross on the back, no doubt. These were very common in England in the 16th century. The

whole inventory somewhat conveys the impression of a survival of the more ancient Cistercian simplicity.

To this has been added, as Appendix II the part relating to Bedfordshire of a long document giving particulars of defaced plate from all over England delivered into the royal jewel house in the Tower of London between 1st June 1553 and 4th February, 1554. A note giving the same particulars is endorsed on the list of persons responsible for the disappearance of goods from several churches (*v. p. 25.*)

# INVENTORIES

## HUNDRED OF MANSHEAD

### [Battlesden]

#### Batelysden

The inventorie indentyd of all manere of plate jewelles vestmentes and belles bylongyng to the paryshe churche of Batelysden in the countie of Bed[ford] made the second day of Septembre in the vj<sup>th</sup> yere of the reyng of owre sovereyng lord kyng Edwarde the syxte exhibyted by Michell Innit curat William Vincent Henry Fyelde churchwardens John Trapnell Nicholles Fyelde William Ebbes and William Exell townsmen

In primis of sylvere percell gylte oon chalice with a patent weyng xi ounces iij quarters and di

Item a crosse of copper and gylte

Item iij vestmentes oon of green sarsenet oon of green sylke and oon othere of whyte sylke

Item a cope of rede sylke

Item oon crosse clothe of green sylke

Item of lynnен vj alter clothes † ij towelles † iij albes

Item ij hanbelles

Item in the stepull of the seid churche iij belles

Item the churche and chancell leaded and the porches and the stepull tyeled

† Commytted to the custodye and saffe kepyng of William Vincent and Henry Fyeld †

L Seint John Uryan Brereton

Lewys Dyve

Richard Snowe

† The obelus (†) has been used throughout to mark those parts of the inventories which appear to have been added by one of the commissioners.

## [Eversholt.]

## Eversoult

This inventory indentyd of all manner plate juelles vestymentes ornamenteſ and belles belonginge to the paryſhe churche of Eversoult in the countye of Bedforth. Made the ijde daye of Septembre in the vjth yere of the reynge of oure ſoverayng Edwerd the vjth by the grace of God kyng of Englond Fraunce and Irelond defendor of the feayth and in erthe ſupreme hedd of the churche of Englond and Irelond, by the person John Slowgh the churche wardens Ryche Whytbreade Thomas Butterfyld, and the Towensmen. Edmonde Barlee gent. Ambrose Gryggory. Thomas Johnſon. and John Brett.

Inprimis one challes of ſylver percell gylt wayinge † viij † owences iij quarters

Item one other challes of copper and gylte

Item iij copies one blewe velwett thother grene ſylke.

Item iij vestymentes one blewe velwett thother grene ſylke.

Item xvth auter clothes and towelles

Item one ſheate<sup>1</sup>

Item vj cortens of dornyx wheroſ ys made iiij playing cootes :

Item a coveryng for the auter of olde tawny ſylke.

Item ann awter clothe of grene ſylke which is a coveryng for the funte.

Item iij corporous cases of blacke velwett

Item iij corporous clothes

Item iij sacrynge belles

Item annolde hearse clothe

Item in the ſteapull iiij belles

Item the churche chaunſell vestery and ſteapull all coveryd with leade

† Commytted to the custodye and ſaffe kepyng of Thomas Jonſon and John Burt †

[Signatures as before]

<sup>1</sup>i.e., probably the great Lenten veil.

## [Harlington.]

## Harlingdon

The invytorye indented of all maner of plate jewelles vestementes ornamenteſ and belles belongyngē to the parisshe churche of Harlingdon in the com [county] of Bed[ford] made the seconde daye of September in the vii<sup>th</sup> yere of the raigne of or soveraigne lord Edward the sixt by the grace of God of England Fraunce and of Ierland kynge defendor of the faithe, and in erth the supreme head of the churche of England and Ierland exēbyted and delyvered to the kynges his maiestie[s] comyssyoners by William Alyson vycar Richard Hawkyns John Nasshe churche wardens John Spycer Ath Helder Richard Mathew townes men.

In primis one chalice of † silver † percell gylte wayinge ix unces

Item to crossys of coper and gylte

Item a corpus clothe with a case of syke

Item one payer of sensers of coper

Item sixse vestmentes v of them of sylke and one of them of whight bustyan

Item ij copes one of damaske whight and the other of blew damaske

† Item iij pillowes olde of sylke †

Item in the stepull of the said churche v belles and a saunce bell The first bell in wydenes ii foote and vii ynches in depthe ii foote and one ynche the second bell ii foote and viij ynches in depthe ii foote the thurd bell ii fote wyde and ii foote depth the fowerth bell iii foote wyde and ii fote depth and a di the v<sup>th</sup> bell iii foote and di wyde ii foote and di depe the saunce bell wyde xi ynche and ix ynche depe

Item all the said churche and porche leaded and the chaunsell tyled and the stepull tyled

† Committed to the custodie and safe kepynge of William Alyson vicar there John Helder and Richard Mathewe †

[Signatures as before]

[Endorsed]

In primis one chalyce sold to John Spycer for ijli iij*s* iiij*d* which was bestowed upon the hye waye

[**Houghton Regis.**]

Howgton Regis

The inventorie indentid of all maner of plate juelles vestimentes and belles belongynge to the paryshe churche of Howgton Regis in the countye of Bed[ford] made the fyrist daye of September in the syxt yere of owr sufferayn lord kynge Edward the syxth by the grace of God of Yngland Fraunce and Ireland kynge defender of the fayth and in earth suprem hed of the chyrch of Yngland and Ireland : and exhybyted by John Edwardes and Rychard Webbe chyrch wardens and also Mathew Pedder Wylliam Straunge and Thomas Willys with other : townsmen

In primis iij chalyces. of the wyche one ys sylver dowble gylt waynge xxvij ounces and the other ij be sylver parcell gyllt waynge xxvj ounces.

Item of lattyn ij crosses too pyxes a payre of sencers a pax and ij lattyn candylstykes

Item † two copes † one cope<sup>1</sup> of lynn clothe. and the other of russett worsted and the other were stolen when the chyrch wass robbed

Item xiij olld vestymentes. and the other were taken away whan the churche wass robbed

Item iiij corporas cases and iij of the clothes were stolen

Item iiij hangynges. and iiij lynn clothes. vj towelles. iiij surplyces and ij rochettes and ij chestes

† Item a pawle of dyvers colors †

Item iiij belles and the v bell wass not all payd for and therfore yt wass solld to pay yt

† The churche and steple covered with ledde †

† Committed to the custodie and safe kepynge of John Edwardes and Richard Webbe †

[Signatures as before]

[**Hulcote.**]

Hulcott

The inventoris indentyd off all maner off plate jewelles vestimentes ornamente and bookees belongyng to the paryshe

<sup>1</sup> Struck out.

churche of Hulcot in the counte of Bed[ford] made the last day of August in the syxt yere of the reygne of owr soveren lord kynge Edward the syxt by the curat churcewardens and dyvers other the discrete and most substancyall men of the seid parish appoynyd for the same and also examyned by the kynges maiesties commyssioneres in that behalff assygned whos names to to either part of the seid inventoris are subscrybyd

In primys one broken chalice † of sylver † with a patent percell gylte weynge xiij ounces and di Item ii alter clothes iij towelles

Item one crosse of copper Item one crosse clothe of sylk  
Item ij albes and one vestment † red sey † Item ij latten candilstikes

Item one latten basen Item one lamp of latten  
Item a payer of sensures of latten Item a holy water stop of laten

Item one coop of grene sylke Item one surpclothe<sup>1</sup>  
Item iij lytell belles in the stepell the fore bell in compas a yeard one foote iij ynches in depthe di yard ij ynches in compas the second j yard di iiiij ynches in depthe di yard vj ynches the third in compase ij yeards xiij ynches depthe di yeard vij ynches

Item the seid churche † and steple † coveryd with ledd and the chauncell and porch tylid

† Committed to the custodie and safe kepynge of Michell Shepeherd persone there Thomas Burton and Randoll Spencer †

[Signatures as before]

### [Husborne Crawley.]

Husband Crauley

The inventorye indentyd of all maner of plate vestymentes and belles belongyng to the said paryche chyrche in the countye of Bedford mayde the fyrste day of Septembre in the syxte yere of the rayne of our soverayn lord kyng Edward the syxte by the curat churcewardens and dyveres

<sup>1</sup> i.e., a surplice.

other of the discret and substancyall men of the sayd paryche appoynted for the same

In primus one chalyce of tynne  
 Item a crosse of copper  
 Item of lynnен ijij alter clothes  
 Item viij towelles  
 Item ij hangynges before the alter  
 Item iiij olde lynnен clothes  
 Item j buckeram hangyng  
 Item iiij vestimentes on of blue <sup>2</sup> sylke <sup>2</sup> welvet<sup>1</sup>  
 Item a nother of red <sup>1</sup> sylke <sup>1</sup> and the thyrd of satten  
 Item iiij copes on of satten and ij of lynnен  
 † Item oon crosse clothe of red sylke †  
 Item the sayd chyrche † and stepull † is ledded and the chancell and the porche is tyled  
 † Item j hanbell and a sawnce bell †  
 Thes men beyng present at the makynge of thys inventory  
 Thomas Byrde clericke  
 Thomas Allyn and John Matthew chyrchewardens  
 Nycole Abbat Rychard Syare  
 Henrie Mathew and Wylliam Pollens  
 Item in the steple of the sayde chyrche iiij belles  
 The grete bell in bredithe iiij foote and hallfe a inche |  
 in depthe ij foote and v inches and in thycknes iiij inches  
 | The second in bredthe ij foote viij inches in depthe  
 iiij foote ij inches iiij quarters in thycknes, ij inches and  
 iiij quarters of an inche. | The thyrde in bredthe ij foote v  
 inches | in depthe ij foote and hallfe and inche and in thyck-  
 nes ij inches and a hallfe, The fourthe bell in bredthe ij  
 foote xj inches, in depthe ij foote v inches, and in thyckness  
 ij inches and a quarter of a inche

† Commyttedd to the custodye and saffe kepyng of Thomas  
 Bryd vicare there Thomas Allyn and John Mathew †

[Signatures as before]

<sup>1—2</sup> In later hand.

<sup>2</sup> Struck out.

## [Salford.]

## Salford

The inventury indentyd of all manner of plate jewelles vestmentes and belles belongyng to the paryshe church of Salford in the count[ie] of Bedf[ord] maid the second day of September in the syxt yere of the reyng of or sovereygn lord Edward the syxt by the grace of God by the curat churchwardens and dyvers other of the dyscrete and moost substancyall men of the said paryshe appoyned for the same and also examyned by the kynges maiesties commyssyoners in that behalfe assigned whose names to eyther part of the said inventury are subscrybyd

## The names of the presenters

Roger Browgh Vicar

Thomas Odell }church[wardens] John Lovell townesman  
George Townes }

In primis one chales and one patent of Sylver percell gylt  
weyng ix ownces

Item of laten one crosse and ij candelstykkes one crosse  
clothe of grene sylke and one banner clothe of grene sylk

Item iij vestmentes one of blew velvett one of whyte  
sylk and ij of rede and whyte and ij copes one of rede sylke  
and one of dyvers colors

Item in the steple of the said church iij belles the great  
bell in compas too yeardes and di in deapth iij quarters and  
a nayle The second in compasse ij yerdes and a quarter  
in deapth iij quarters The third in compasse ij yerdes in  
deapth iij quarters save a nayle

Item the said church † and steple † coveryd with lede and  
the chancell and porch tyled

† Item ij hande belles †

† Committed to the custodie and safe kepynge of Roger  
Broughe vicare there John Odell and Thomas Butler †

[Signatures as before]

## [Tingrith.]

## Tyngrythe

The inventory indentyd of all maner of plate vestimentes  
ornamentes and belles belongynge to the parryshe of  
Tyngrythe in the counte of Bedford maid the seconde day  
of September in the syxt yere of the rayne of our soverand  
lorde kynge Edward the syxt by the curat churche wardens  
and dyveres other of the said parryshe appoynyd for the same

In primis too chalyces of sylver percell gylt weyng xxij  
ounces

Item vj alter clothes and vj towelles and one pyllow

Item of coper one pyxe and one crosse

Item iij clothes in paynes red and yellow for the alter

Item ij candylstykes

† Item iii coopes verye olde †

Item vj vestimentes <sup>2</sup> and too copes <sup>2</sup> † one white damaske  
and one other grene and the other iiii verie olde †

Item in the stepull of the said churche iij belles weyng  
by estymation xxv hundred wyght

Item all the said churche † chauncell and steple † coveryd  
with ledde

## The names of the presenteres

Patryk Lyntone persone	Wylliam Bunkar	Wylliam
Androw the churche wardens	Symon Lowynge	Thomas
Wytt the townes men		

† Commytted to the custodie and safe kepynge of Simont  
Lowyn William Bonker and William Andrewe †

[Signatures as before]

<sup>2</sup>—<sup>2</sup> Struck out.

## [Tilsworth.]

## Tyllysworth

The Inventorie indentide of all maner of plate  
jewelles vestimentes ornamentes and belles belongynge

to the parrishe churche of Tyllysworth in the counte of Bedf[ord] made the second day of September in the vj<sup>th</sup> yere of the reigne of our sovren lord kinge Edward the syxte by the curate churchwardens and dyveric othere of the dyscrete and most substancyall men of the seid parische appoyntyde for the same and also examynede by the kynges maiestes commyssionres in that behalffe assigned whoos names to eithere parte of the seyde inventorie are subscrybid

In primis of sylver one chalice parcell gylte weynge eyght ounces

Item ij alter clothes

Item iij vestymentes one of wytte fustyan and one of rede sylke and a nother of grene sylke

Item iij copies one ys grene sylke a nother ys blew and the othere ys lyned with youlow bockeram

† Item oon surplesse †

Item in the staple of the seide churche iii bellys beyng by estimatioon xxx hundred weyght

Item the churche body and the chauncell ys tyled ande the Ilye thereof † and the stepulle † ys leddid

The names of the commissioners	The names of the presenters
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

Robt Low Vicare

Robt Bonyon

Thomas Grome

Churchwardens

John Pendley

Thomas Carter

Townsmen

† Commytted to the custodie and saffe kepyng of Robert Bounyon and Thomas Grome †

[Signatures as before]

### [Westoning.]

Westonyng

The inventorie indentid of all maner of plate jewelles vestmentes ornamenteis and belles belongyng to the parische church of Westonyng in the counte of Bedford made the

second day of Septembre in the syxte yere of reyn of our soverene lorde kynge Edward the syxte, by the curate churche wardens, and dyver other of the discrete and most substanciall men of the sayd parishe apponted for the same

In primis too chalices of sylver percell gylte weyng xvij ounces and a halfe

Item of lynnyn syxe alter clothes iij towelles ij hangyng and ij crosse clothes

Item of laten too candelstyckes and a bason

Item ij censers of latyn and a herse clothe

Item a xj vestmentes one of grene velvett one blew satten one of white saten one of red sarcent one of grene damaske one of red seye one of red saten one of grene thred one of blew threde one broches and flowers and one other of blacke sey

Item v coopes one of blew saten one of red sarcent one wrought in the frame of threde one other of blew saten and one other of grene branched damaske

Item in the stepull of the seyd churche iiij belles, to of the seyd belles weyng by estymation xvij hundred and a half, the other to gret belles xxii hundred by estimation and a saunce bell, to hand belles

Item the churche † chauncell steple and porche † all covered with leed Item to sacaryng belles

Item ij surplesses and to rochettes

The names of the presenters

John Frances vicar Rychard Punter Rowland Dyxe churcewardens Edmonde Parsons Henry Wattes

† Committed to the custodie and safe kepynge of John Fraunces vicare there Richard Punter and Edmonde Parsons †

## HUNDRED OF BARFORD.

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[Eaton Socon and Wyboston.]

Eton cum Wyboston

Thys inventory of the churche goodes there endentyd the xjx<sup>th</sup> day of August the vj<sup>t</sup> yere of the reyng of oure soverynge lord Edwarde the syxtt by the grace of God kyng of Englund Fraunce and Ireland defender of the faythe and of the churche of Englund and alsoo Irelond in erthe the supreme hed and presentyd the sayme day and yere at Bedford to the kynges maiesties comyssioners by Thomas Alcocke vicar John Tynggay and Nicolas Yssott churche werdens ther Wylliam Stott Jamys Bercoke Thomas Tynggay inhabytauntes of Eton a fore sayde

Fyrst one chalys of sylver doble gylt weyng xv owunces  
Item one chalys of sylver parcell gylt weyng viij owunces  
† qa di †  
A crosse of sylver parcel gylt weyng lxviii owunces  
One payre of sylver sensure with a shyp of sylver weyng xxxvii ounces  
On pyx of coper gyltyd  
A cope of cremyssyn velvett  
One other cope of whytt damaske wythe decon and subdecon of the sayme  
Item a cope of blewe damask with decon and subdecon to the sayme  
Item one cope of gold and velvett with decon and subdecon to the sayme  
Item one vestment of tawny sylke with decon and subdecon  
Item iij vestmentes for everye day and ij croscloths of greyn sarsnet  
One baner clothe ij lectrone clothes | one pylloo for the alter

A vayll of lynnyn clothe xii towylles v belles in the  
stepyll and a sanctes bell

† The churche chauncell and steple covered with leadde

Committed to the custodye and kepinge of Thomas  
Alcock vicarr there John Tyngay Nicholas Isatt and  
William Scott †

[Signatures as before.]

## HUNDRED OF REDBOURNSTOKE.

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### [Cranfield.]

#### Cranfield

[Inventory in]dentyd of all manner of plate jwelles vestmentes ornementes and belles belongy[ng to the churche of Cranfeil]d in the count[ie] of Bedf[ord] maid the second day of Septembre in the syx[t yere of our Sover]eng lord Edward the Syxt by the grace of God of Ynglond France and Irel[eland Kyng defender of] the fayth and in earth supreme heade of the same church of Ynglond and Ireland . . . obert Harreson || churchwardens Wylliam Purrear John Sugr || and Harr . . . William Sylkes townesmen || and dyvers other of the dyscrete and moost substancyall men [appoyned] for the same and also examyned by the Kynges maiestis commysyoners

. . . . [g]ylt thre chaleces with their patentes weyng fyfty ounces and half

. . . . church iiiij belles and as ances bell the wayght of the fyrst bell by . . . second xi. C. thyrd xv C the fowrth xvij C the sances bell dj C. . . . [c]hurch conteynyng in weyght viijli . . . of latten with iij small belles ij crosses of latten ij sensors of latten and iiiij candlestykkes of brass

[Item one] cope of rede velvett and vestment of the same with albe and dubbynges one cope of grene sylk . . . chesebelles of the same ij albys with dubbynges<sup>1</sup> one vestment of whyte chamlett . . . the same one cope bawdkyn a vestment of the same ij chesebles and iij albes || ij old cop . . . damask || ij clothes of sylk to hang before thalter thone of red and whyte saten . . . rede and grene damask

<sup>1</sup>i.e., apparels.

|| iiij vestmentes of grene dornykes with albys || one old  
. . . [re]de sylke and vestment of the same and one rede  
sylk vestment and ij crosse clothes of sylk

. . . . viij alter clothes and viij towelles and iiij syr-  
pleces one payre of organs the said churche ys coveryd  
with lede and chauncell also

† . . . the custodie and safe kepynge of William Purrear  
John Sugar Henry Wh. . . †

[Signatures as before]

## HUNDRED OF WIXAMTREE.

### [Farndish.]

#### Farndyshe

The Invytorie off the churche goodes off Farndysche made the xvij daye off August the syxte yere off oure sovereyne lorde Edward the syxt by the grace of God off Englund Fraunce and Irelond kyng defendor off the faythe and in erthe off the churche of Englund and Irelond supreme heddes by Wylliam Lordisman persone of the same towne John Fyssher Wylliam Wede churcewardens there and Roger Wysseman Reynolde Bett John Poweres off the sayde towne of Farndische

Fyrst one chalyce off sylver with a paten to the same weight xij ounces and di

One cope off dune velvett imbrothered with golde

One cope off whight sylke two vestementes one off satyn off burges thother of wight chamlet

Thre belles in the stepull and a sanctes bell

The seyde churche off Farndische and the chauncell ys coweryd ovre with ledde

† Committed to the custodye and safe kepinge of William Lordesman personne there John Power and William Wede †

[Signatures as before]

### [Stagsden.]

#### Stacheden in com [county] Bed[ford]

The Inventory endented of all the ornamente and churche goodes there remaynyng beynge presented before the kynges maesties commissioners by Robert Slyngesby

clarke vycar there Thomas Golston gent Wylliam Bolton Alexander Yerle Wylliam Money inbytauntes of the same towne at Bedford the xvijth day of Auguste in the sixte yere of the reigne of our sovereign lorde kynge Edward the sixte

Ryc Cocke                    }  
George Saunsam              } Chyrchewardenes

In primis one chalyce of sylver percell gilte weyng xvj ounces

Item one crosse of latten gylted

Item one sylke cope of chesable and one amys with an albe

Item iij fruntes and ij counter fruntes<sup>1</sup> of sylke

Item ij corporas<sup>2</sup> clothys<sup>2</sup> cases one of clothe of golde  
thother of velvett

Item one sute of redde vestymentes with a cope of sylke

Item ij coffers

Item iiiij belles in the steple

The churche and the steple covered leade and the  
chauncell covered with tyle and slate

† Committed to the custodye and safe kepinge of Robt  
Slingesbye vicar there Thomas Golston and William Bolton †

[Signatures as before]

<sup>1</sup> i.e. upper frontals.

<sup>2</sup>—<sup>2</sup> erased.

## MARIAN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO BEDFORDSHIRE CHURCH GOODS.

Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods 4

### [Meppershall.]

Ornamentes belongyng to the churche of Mepersale  
and solde and deteyned by Thomas Stringer of the same  
Fyrste one chalesse parcell gylte solde }  
unto Leonard Daye for xx crownes } iiiijli xixs  
somme

Item one cope and a vestment of redd }  
velvett solde to Sir Henrye Graye } xx*s*

Item one handebell solde to Leonard Daye xv*d*

Item the same Thomas detayneth the  
veile the coveringe for the roode and  
the canapye of clothe and frenged }  
with sylke The same Thomas dyd }  
deface a grayle belongyng to the said }  
churche and he hathe allso serteyne }  
other albes and alter clothes and will }  
not restore the same

And when the pore demaunde the same he revileth  
them and caleth them begarlye knaves and evill  
entreteth them

### [In another hand.]

Item iij gret cofers coverd with ieron by estimacion  
valewd xxxiijs iiijd Summa vijli xiijs viijd  
Exhibited by William Rolf of Mepersall

### [In right margin in another hand.]

In hys kepynge and makyth part for beddes and part  
for hangynges paynted

[*In left margin in another hand.*]

Nota the same Thomas shalbe bounden by rec[ognisance] to provyde a new canapie of sаренет or satten of bridges on thisside the furst of Aug[ust] M<sup>d</sup> the commyssyoners certfyfcate of Beddfordshyre beyng serched the xixth daye of June annis ijdo et iijcio itt apperyth that liijs viijd for the broken chalyce the cope of taffyt and latten was paid to the commyssyoners handds by the said Thomas Strynger and is charged within the summe of cccvijli iiijd for the churche goodes of Beddforde- shyre

[*On another sheet.*]

After ower hertye comendacions | Forasmuche as we are credebly informed that you onyustelye reteygne in youre handes certeyn churche goodes somtyme belongyng to the parysse churche of Mepersale in the countye of Bedd[ford] Thise shalbe therfor to requyre you : And on the Kynge and the Qwenes maiestyes behalffe streylye to commaunde you by the vertue of there Highnes commyssyon to us dyrected that you personallye appere byfore us att Westm[inster] in the late Augmentacon courte the fyrste daye of the nexte Trynytee terme : to make answeres to suche poyntes and artycles as then shalbe objected ageynst you consernynge the sayd goodes | Fayle you nott hereof att youre perylle

From Westm[inster] the xvij<sup>th</sup> of Maye 1556  
Yor lovyng Frendes

William Berners. Tho : Mildmay. John Wyseman  
[Endorsed]

To Thomas Strynger of Mepersale in the countye of Bedd[ford] yoman be this delyvered

[*On another sheet.*]

The declaration of Thomas Strynger of Mepersale within the countie of Bedf[ord] yoman of for and concernynge hys dyscharge of any churche gooddes supposed to be by hym defrauded contrarye &c

Inprimis the seid Thomas sayethe that aboughte a vj<sup>t</sup> or  
vij<sup>t</sup> yeares past that he the seid Thomas and one Gowther  
Parker yoman of the same towne nowe decessyd were then  
churcewardens of the seid churche of Mepersall and at  
suche tyme and when they were commaunded by the kynges  
commyssyoners at that tyme appoynted to cum before them  
and to brynge with them a lawfull inventory of all suche  
churche gooddes and stockes of money as then were belongynge  
unto the churche of the seid parryssh wherof they then as  
churche wardens was charged with all where uppon the seid  
churche wardens amonge other many churche wardens of other  
parrysshess dyd not only appeare at Luton but also at Clyfton  
and at the seid towne of Clyfton then dyd delyver unto one  
Sir Michaell Fyssher knyght and other then commyssyoners  
appoynted one certen inventory of all the churche gooddes  
at that tyme belongynge the same churche of Mepersale  
aforeseid yn the which inventory were conteyned were<sup>1</sup>  
conteyned<sup>1</sup> all thes parcelles followynge that ys to saye one  
chales with a patent a blacke velvett cope with a vestment to  
the same belongynge a redde saten cope and a whyte vest-  
ment to the same with certeyn awbes and auiter clothes the  
number of the wiche certenly are not yn ther knowledge and  
also v belles and also expressed yn the seid inventory at the  
same tyme that the churche was ledded and the chauncell  
tyled and as for the seid stocke of money above specyfyed  
to his remembraunce he sayethe dothe amounte unto xxx<sup>s</sup> or  
xl<sup>l</sup> or there aboughtes which was delyvered by the seid  
churche wardens unto the Ordenary longe before the  
makynge of the seid inventory And farder the seid Thomas  
sayethe that after the seid inventory presented and before  
any gooddes delyvered by the vertewe of the same inventory  
that the seid Gowther Parker and the seid Thomas Strynger  
upon ther accomptes makynge were dyscharged and one  
John Strynger and Harry Meade then newly ellected and  
chosen churchwardens &c After which election and aboughte  
a iij yeres past they were commaunded amonge other to  
appeare before newe commyssyoners then for the ornament of  
the churche appoynted for to appeare before them at Bedf[ord]  
with all the ornamente before specyfyed within the seid  
inventory at which tyme the seid churchwardens then beyng

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*

dyd make delyvere accordyngly as all other churcewardens were compelled to do the lyke and the same And this the seid Thomas Strynger sayethe and more yn the premisses he cannot say trustynge that yt ys suffycyent for his declaration.

And forasmyche as yt ys to be supposed that one John Leventhorpe the elder gent of Mepersale aforeseid shold be the one of the procurers of this byll ayenst hym he sayethe he must nedes utter thynge ayenst the seid Levernþorpe that he wolde not gladly have don excepte commaundement had compelled to do therunto of for and concernyng the ymbeaselynge of certeyn gooddes which neyver were put into the intoventory and all by the lett and doyng of the seid Leventhorpe which parcelles so ymbeaceled by the seid Leventhorpe be as after followethe.

Inprimis he had a saunce bell hangynge yn the belfrey and converted the same to his owne use and neyver payd one peny therfore and by estymacon worthe to be sold iiiij markes or there aboughtes [vs.]<sup>1</sup>

Item he had yn lyke manner a whyte satten cope braunched and a vestment to the same worthe vli to be boughte and payd therfore never a peny [xxs.]

Item he had ij other vestmentes one of Lyons blewe and whyte and the other of redde satten prycce to be sold xl<sup>s</sup> or there aboughtes. [xxs.]

And farder sayethe that when he and an other joyned with hym as churche wardens made awaye yn his tyme so beyng made away a gate howse to his owne commoditie only worthe vijs or viijs And also consumed the stocke of a iiiij markes or there aboughtes of redy money and never wold accompt unto the parrysse for any peny therof nor never at this day for any thynge that the parysse could do and also kepe the churche boke from them for that yntent wherby the parrysse ys hyndered for other thynges for the profett of the same. [xlvj<sup>s</sup> viijd]

Summa<sup>2</sup> iiijli xjs viijd<sup>2</sup> lxxj<sup>s</sup> viijd

And for asmyche farder as the holle trewthe shall appeare the seid Thomas declarethe farder what thynges have ben don by the holle consent of the parrysse at and before the

<sup>1</sup>The prices in square brackets have been added in the margin.

<sup>2</sup>—<sup>2</sup> Erased.

makynge of the fyrst inventory that ys to say they dyd sell one olde broken chales pryce [erased] and there made to the use of the same parrysse churche iiiijli of redy money and parte of the seid money bestowed afterwardes by consent and advyse of the ordynary for the relyeffe of the poore of the parrysse and the reparacons of the churche | And at the delyvere of the churche gooddes the commyssyoners dyd cast the seid parrysse yn arrerages for the seid churche gooddes iijli savyngc viijd | which money was payd owte of hand before the retorne of the commyssyoneres and what shyftes the seid parrysse by ther holle consentes dyd make for the helpe of themselves for the repayment ayen of that money that was payd the seid Thomas Strynger do remytt that unto the reporte of the holle parrysse and nothyng was don yn the premisses but only the seid Leventhorpe beyngc [erased] was made prvyte ther unto and so an ende And more the seid Strynger sayethe not for this tyme nor more cannot saye otherwyse than the holle parrysse do knowe than the holle parrysse do knowe [sic].

[Endorsed]

Leventhorppe

[*On another sheet.*]

After moost hertye commendacions this shalbe to sygnyfye unto yoe all that where lately yoe dyrected yor lettres yn all yor thre names unto a neyghbor of myne one Thomas Strynger of Mepersale within the shyere of Bedf[ord] yoman wyllynge hym and also on the Kynge and the Quenes behalfe straytly do commaunde hym to appeare before yoe personally at Westmr yn the late Augmentacion Courte the fyrst daye of Trynytie terme to make answer to suche poyntes and artycles as then shalbe abiected ayenst hym concernynge the churche gooddes and this yor doyngc as yt shold seme to be by vertewe of ther hyghnes commyssyon as by yor lettres date the xvith of Maij more playnlye apperethe Pleasethc yoe all to understande that the procurers of this byll be not neyther fryndes nor lovers unto the seid Stryng[er] but only that that they do yf yt were for the zeale of justyce orelles for any goodde wyll that they beare towardes the furnyture of ther churche they were worthey sum prayse as I do knowe the qualtyes of thos persons re be to the contrary and that that they do they do yt of pout

malyce and that wyll sumwhat appeare by the delyvere of  
 yor lettres for they never delyvered them untyll Weddys-  
 day last next before the daye of apparaunce and yet they be  
 all of one towne dwellynge And forasmyche as my  
 neyghbor ys an olde man and not used to journey and that  
 also I unworthely amonge other of the worshypfull as I  
 suppose are yn lyke commyssyon within owr shyre of  
 Bedf[ord] of and for the churche gooddes and other thynges  
 I have called the seid partie before me and have declared  
 the contentes of yor lettres before hym and uppon dewe ex-  
 amynation therin had before me and other of the commys-  
 syon have taken his answer concernyng the premisses yn  
 wrytyng to the yntent to take suche order eyther by yoe or  
 by us accordynge as occasion shall serve upon the seid  
 answer wiche answer at my cummyng upp within a day or  
 twoo yn the begynnyng of this terme I shall shewe unto  
 yoe all trustyng yn the meane tyme that yoe wyll not  
 be offended for hys non appearance Thus byddynge yoe all  
 moost hertely fare well from Alrychesey the ij<sup>de</sup> of June by  
 yor assuryd at all tymes to commaunde

J. Th. Hemyng

[Endorsed]

Churche goodes perteynyng to the parishe of Mepersale in  
 com Bedd[ford]

Informasian agenst Stringer

To the Ryghte Worshipfull William Berners Thomas  
 Myldmay and John Wyseman Esquyers and to every of  
 them at London be this d[elivere]d.

[*The following are all on one sheet of paper.*]

Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods  $\frac{12}{27}$

### [Luton.]

William Perott of Luton and others of the same parisshe  
 for a paxe of silver with a pece of mother of perle p'oz—  
 v oz di. A pixe of silver and gylte with a doble glasse p'oz—  
 xxij oz di. ij challeses with there pattentes doble gylte p'oz—  
 xlv oz solde by Edward Crawley John Punter sometyme  
 churchewardens there by the concent of the parisshe as is  
 affermed

(right margin)

xvij mercij 1555  
A paxe and a pixe and ij challes of silver

(left margin)

xmo mercij ao 1555 William Perot apperinge hath affirmed upon his oth that he ys not the partie alledgynge that this Perot ys ded and therfor processe sent by Perott to John Crawley executor to Edward Crawley

(right margin)

John Crawley executor of the said Edward Crawley appering hath brought forth an accompte of his said Testator and therof it apperyth that he chargith hymself to the churche with xvli for the said percelles whiche was ymployed aboute the new makynge of an ile of the churche and he hath the fyrst of the term to bringe the seid xvli yf he can gett it of the parysse

(bottom of sheet)

John Crawley for the parcelles above remembred—xvli wherof allowed to the said Crawley for repairing of the Ile of the churche of Luton aforsaid by the disresones of the commissioners viijli vjs viijd and yt ys due—vjli xiijs iiijd whiche somme ys allowed by the said commissioners with this condicon that the said Crawley shall provyde and buye ornamentes for the said par[ish] churche of Luton as doth amoute to the said somme of vjli xiijs iiijd whiche John Gwynneth vicare there in the presence of the bysshoppe of Ely hath undertaken shalbe don by midsomer next

(left margin)

Md The xij<sup>th</sup> of June anno iido et tercio the said John Gwynneth hathe certfyed the said commyssioners by his lettrelle that the said Crawley hathe bought certeyn ornamentes for the churche of Luton to the valewe of vjli xiijs iiijd or above

[**Stretley.**]

John Carter of Stretley clarke and others of the same parisshe for the price of a great belle solde by Rychard Norton and John Norton churcewardens there by the concent of the parisshe as is affirmed for the some of xli

(right margin)

Wherof they have bestowed upon the leadynge of the churche—iiijli and so remayneth—vjli to be paid the xv<sup>th</sup> of Maye next whiche said summe of vjli ys paid to Nicholas Brighame one of the Tellers of the xchequyre Termino pasche Ao iido et iiijco per p[resentem] v . . . tallium primo pasche vz—xijmo die maii anno iido et iiijcio penes Thomam Morton, gent, and therupon the obligacon was d[ischarged].

(left margin)

xxij Aprilis 1555 Thomas Norton of All Hallows apperyde for the hole paryshe

[**Houghton Conquest.**]

The parcelles appeare within

Johan Conqueste of Houghton Conquest in the seid countie widdowe executrix of the testament of Edmond Conquest Esquier deceassed for the price of ij challes of silver one coate of cromysen velvet called Jhus cope one payer of organs one sute of vestment of white damaske one cope of blewe velvet one cromysen velvet cote with juelles called or ladyes coate one belle clapper one C<sup>th</sup> wayght of leade and xlib waxe of the seid churche goodes taken awaye by Edmond Conquest her late husband

(left margin)

vijvo Febre ao 1556 For asmoche as John Nudigate gent appering before the commyss[ioners] the same daye and yere bringing with hym a testimoniall from the most substanciall of thole parish and John Holstok parson of Houghton who upon theyr othes have deposid before the seid commiss[ioners] that sundrie parcelles of plate and ornamente to the value of xxxijli vjs viijd and by the seid

Johane Conquest delivered to thuse of the seid parish churche of Houghton in recompense of the seid parcelles of plate ornamenteſ &c taken by her seid husbond Ed[mond] Conquest as aforeſeid and therefor here discharged

(right margin)

Appering by John Nudigate gent the xvij of Marche hath day to make aunſwere for the seid gentlewoman or to pay for the goodes as they shalbe valued the furſt day of the Easter terme nexte.

**[Willington]**

Thomas Verney of Willington Esquier husbond unto Anne late wyfe of William Gostwick Esquier late brother to Sir John Gostwick deceaſed and executrix of the teſta‐ment of William Gostwick her late husbond for the price of a crosse of ſilver and gylte and one payer of crewettes of ſilver ſolde for xvijli and a cope of clothe of golde with veftement deacon and ſubdeacon worth by eſtimacion xxli one challes p'oz—xvj oz. A ſuite of vefmentes of white damaske price lijs iiijd whiche parcelles the commissioners thiſke that the vicar of Willington diſſide present of malice

(right margin)

xlli xijs iiijd in money and xvjoz plate

This ys diſcharged per certiſcate from Mr Barone Luke and others.

(left margin)

The ſeid Verney bying fallen ſycke of an agewe as Mr. Secretary Perſe hath certeyfed hath daye to aunſwer the fyrt of the next terme.

*[On the verso of the ſame.]*

Com. Bedf[ord].

Plate	all guylte—Diiijxx xv oz	} d[elivere]d to Sir Fraunces Jobſon Master of the Juel- house
	parcell gylte—Dcciiijxx xij oz	
	one little purse with xxij little buttons of ſilver	

Ornamenteſ of clothe of golde and tiffeſwe—xiiij peces d[elivere]d to Arthur Stourton Esquier

Redy money---CCCvijli iijs delyvered to Sir Edmond Peckham Knight

[**Dunstable.**]

Robert Merick John Davye James Tydye and William Thorppe of Dunstable for the price of a crosse of silver parcell gylte solde by Richard Burton and Edmond Carpenter sometyme churchwardens of the same towne and omytted oute of theire inventorye of Dunstable

(right margin)

j crosse of silver parcell guylte

The parties appering the xvijth of Marche doo confesse upon theyr othes the sale of the seid crosse to be made in anno 1541 and the money therof commyng bestowed upon their church.

[**Harlington**]

John Spicer *alias* Elder and Richard Mathewe of Harlington in the seid countie for the price of a challice of silver p'oz. xij oz—lxiijs iiijd and for a payer of orgaynes xls solde by Richard Hawkins and John Nayshe churchwardens there by the concent of the parishe as hit is affirmed

(right margin)

xvijuo Marci  
cijs iiijd

The said parties appering do saye upon their othes that the said orgaunes remayne in the churche furnyshed and therfor here allowed—xls and for lxiijs iiijd they be orderyd to paye it whiche ys paid to Nicholas Brighame as appereth by the bill remayning

[**Toddington.**]

John Holbeche George Ref and Robert Markham of Toddington in the seid countie for a silver crosse gylte one pyxe of silver gylte a litle sylver dishe, sencers of silver and one challes of silver the value whereof they knowe not solde by the seid John Holbeche and one William Reynold churchwardens there by the concent of the parishe as is affirmed

(right margin)

i crosse a pixe a litle dishe sencers and a challes of silver

(left margin)

xvij<sup>uo</sup> Marcij 1555 The parties appering have deposed that the said goodes were sold xij<sup>er</sup> yeres past and converted to thuse of the churche as dyd appere by accompt therof shewed and by cause the said parcells were omyted out of the inventorys taken in Kynge E[dward's]. dayes they are discharged

[On a separate sheet.]

[Luton.]

To the Worshipfull William Barners Thomas Mildmaye and John Wyseman Esquyres the Kynges and Quenes maiestes comissioners

This bill made the x<sup>th</sup> day of June in the second and third yeres of the reignes of our souerainge lorde and ladye King Phillip and Quene Mary ys to certefye your worshipps that for the accomplishment of the order taken with John Crawley one of the executors of Edwarde Crawley sometyme churchewardeyn of the parishe church of Luton in the countye of Bedford for the bestowing of vjli xiijs iiijd upon some necessary ornamentes for the saide churche There is bestowed by the saide Crawley upon a cope and a vestment of blewe velvett with that belongeth unto them fyve poundes There is also layed oute and bestowed upon a chalys twenty nobles and odd money And this is doon at the charge<sup>1</sup> and request<sup>1</sup> of the saide Crawley

per me Johannem Gwyneth  
vicarium ibidem.

<sup>1</sup>—<sup>1</sup> Struck out.

[On a separate slip attached.]

[Houghton Conquest.]

Com. Bedf[ord].

in money	lx <sup>s</sup>		
ij chalyces	vijil		
a cope of blewe velvett	xls		
a sute of white damaske	xli		
a payer of organs	iiijli		
ower ladyes cote	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viijd		
a nother cote	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viijd		inde
a belle clapper	xiijs iijd		allocan <sup>as</sup> pro repar'
xl li waxe	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viijd		ecclesie
in redye money	iiij <sup>s</sup> xd		

[On another paper attached to the same.]

Houghton

Reparacions don by Johan Conquest widowe uppon Houghton churche by the commaundement and assent of the parrochiners there in recompence and satisfaccion of all soche goodes and ornamenteas as her late husband Edmond Conquest decessed had owt of the churche of Houghton aforsaid

Fyrst to Stephen Wylyson a tyler for all soche worke about the churche as apperteyned to his occupacon—xlvs xjd

To Thomas Welles a carpenter for that apperteyned to his occupacon xxss

Item to one Pottie a paynter for scryptureng and other paynting of the churche which the parrysse was then commaunded to doe by hym that was then busshoppe—<sup>1</sup> vj lii

Item paid for Red leade for the same<sup>1</sup> vjs viijd<sup>1</sup>

Item for lyme<sup>1</sup> xijs viijd<sup>1</sup>

Item for a booke of sERVICE vs iiijd

Item for a byble when the parrysse werre commaunded to have one in the churche<sup>1</sup> xxiiij<sup>1</sup>

Item for two other bookes and two salters xijs

Item to Wylyam Burgon for working about the churche xijs

Summa<sup>1</sup> xijli vijs viijd<sup>1</sup> iijli iijs xid

Item the sayd Johan Conquest hathe for further recompence given unto the churche since anno primo of the Quenes maiestie theis percelles following

Fyrst one challice of sylver the churche beyng robbed and not one lefte in ytt of the valewe of vli

Item a vestement of grene velvet with all that belongethe thereunto valewed at xl<sup>s</sup>

Item one very fayre coope of whyte dammaske poudred with spred egles of gold and bordred round about with clothe of bawdkyn valewed at xli

Item one other fayre coope of crymsen velvet also powdred with flowers of golde valewed at xli

Item two greate standing candlestickes iijli vjs viijd

Item a fronte of red braunched dammaske xl<sup>s</sup>

Summa xxxijli vjs viijd

Summa totalis xliiiijli xiijs iiijd

<sup>1</sup>—<sup>1</sup> Struck out.

(Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods Bdle., 14, formerly L. R. Ch. Goods Bdle. 1392,  
File 4 no. 1.)

[**Sandy.**]

After commendacons unto your worships the kinge and the quene majesties comyssioners, theshalbe to asserteyn you for awnswere accordynge to the tenor of your letter directid to us the inhabitauntes of the towne and paryshe of Sandeye in the county of Bedf[ord] for ij belles the one wayeng xc. iqr. and ixlb. of bell mettell and the other wayeng vijc. xlviijlb. of bell mettell which said ij belles were lefte in the churche yarde of Sandey by the commaundement of Mr. Robert Burgoyn decessid then beynge one of the kynge majesties audytors who had all the doynge of the exchaynge of the said ij belles and then charged that no persone shulde medle with the same belles untill he sent for theym and said that he wold discharge us of them at all tymes so that we were not charged with the said belles and so shortly after the deth of the said Mr. Burgoyn, Dame Elizabethe Litton, late wiff of the same Maister Burgoyn, late wiff of Sir Robert Litton, Knyght, also decessyd, and now wyff unto Mr. Thwynno commaunded and caused one Michaell Hodgskyn of Brodwater in the parishe of Nebborthe in the county of Hertf[ord], then beynge bayly unto the said dame Elizabeth Litton to fett the said ij belles from Sandey aforesaid with his cart unto Nebborthe aforesaid where as the same Lady Litton then dwelled. And the said Michaell Hodgskyn saythe shortly after the said Lady Litton caused the same ij belles to be carryed to London towardes the payment of the dettes of her said late husband Mr. Burgoyn. And this the said Michaell Hodgskyn who his a lyve at this present will witnes and testifie this before whome so ever he shal be callid ; for serteyn of us the said inhabytaunces of Sandey were with the said Michaell Hodgskyn of late to have the trowght theryn who lyke an honest man declayred no lesse unto us then is before sayde, and thus we the said inhabytauntes of Sanday, who have subscrybed our handes here under writton in the name of all the inhabitauntes of the towne and parishe of Sandey aforesaid, have as well adverstised your worships, by whom the same ij belles were taken away as also by whate auctorytie, and further we cannot say

as knowith God who have your worshipes in his tuystion ;  
from Sandey this xijth of Octobre 1556.

By yours to commaunde

Thomas Cater	Roger Aldryche
Wyllyam Francke	William Adropere
Tomas Cater	Thomas Wonderwode
Jhon Bronsoll	Thomas Springe
Thomas Brittyn	Rafe Bronsoll
Thomas Goswell	
Wylliam Carter.	
John Bronsoll	

[Several of these appear to sign with marks]

[Endorsed]

To the Right worshipfull Mr. Thomas Myldmay and others the kinge and quene majesties commyssioners in the paryshe of Saynt Thomas the Apostle in London geve these etc.

[In another hand]

From Sandy.

From the towne of Sandye in the countie of Bedf[ord] concernyng the accompt of Sir George Gyffard.

(Ex. K. R. Ch. Goods Bdle. 14, formerly L. R. Ch. Goods Bdle. 1392,  
File 3 no. 1.)

### [Willington.]

After our humble comendaciones unto you. Where in the certificate by your L[ordship] and other comessioners in the tyme of our late soverayne Lorde kynge Edwardre the vjth concernyng churche goodes, hit apperith that Thomas Verney of Willington in the countie of Bedf[ord], Esquyre, who maryed the wyff of William Gostwyke, Esquyre, late brother to Sir John Gostewyke her late husband, ys to aunswere for a crosse of sylver gilte, one payre of cruettes of sylver, solde for xvijli. and a cope of cloth of golde with vestment deacon and subdeacon worth by estimacon xxli. one chalice poz. xvij oz., a suyte of vestmentes of white damask prece lijs. iiijd. for the whiche the same Thomas Verney was called before us by vertue of comission to us in that parte addressed, and forasmuche as he hath alledgedyd by his counsell that the said plate and ornementes were not ap-

perteynyng to the churche of Willington, nor were not at any tyme taken or knownen to be the goodes of the said churche, but were the goodes of Sir John Gostewyke, Knyght, and were many tymes by his comaundement brought from the dwellinge howsse of the said Sir John Gostwyke to the churche of Willington aforsaid tyme of the devyne service ther and accustomably usyd to be recaryed to the said howsse, and that also they do alledge they never were bequethed nor geven to the said churche by the said Sir John Gostwyke, and were presented onely of malice by the late vicare ther, whiche partly ys touched in your certificate. Hit maye lyke you callinge the said Mr. Verney before you, the vycare and certen of the parisshioners of Willington aforsaid, to examyne the troth of this matter, and therpon to signifie us by youre lettres to the ende that we maye further procede in their maiesties service to us commytted, as therby we maye take order with the said Mr. Verney or any other whom the same shall concerne. And so lokynge for the reatourne of your aunswere herin in the begynnyng of the last of Julie next we take our leave of you. From Westminster the viij<sup>th</sup> of May, 1556.

Yours assurdly,

William Berners, Thomas Mildmay, John Wyseman.

The names of the precenters of the goodes, plate and juelles of the parish of Willington aforeseid, John Gostwik, gent, Robert Osmond, John Cowper, John Smalle, late vicar, concernyng the premisses, and certified under the handes of the commissioners in the countie of Bedf[ord], viz.

Sir John Seint John, Knight, John Gascoigne K[night] Urian Brereton, Knight, Nicholas Luke, Essquier, John Seint John, Essquier, Lewez Dyve, Ro. Snowe, and John Colbek.

[Endorsed.]

To the right honerable the Lorde Mordaunt, Sir John St. John, Knyght, Nicholas Luke, Esquyre, one of the Barones of the Kynge & Quenes Maiesties Exchequyer, Lewes Dyve, Esquyre, to three or ij of them goven.

(File 3 no. 2.)

Right wourshipfull pleaseth yt you to be advertysed that according to the tenour of your letter unto us directed, we have taken the sayenges of souche persons as we thought had mooste knolege in the matter wherunto they have sette theyr handes, whyche we have sente you herein inclosed wyth the same letter, and for so mouche as we can perseave yt was done but on malyce. Thus we byd you mooste hertelie fare well.

Nycholas Luke,  
Lewyes Dyve.

[Endorsed.]

To the right wourshipfull Mr. Berners and other the kynges and quenes majesties commyssyoneres thys be d[elivere]d.

File 3, no. 3.)

Sir John Smalle preste vicer of Kempston and late vicer of Wylyng[ton] in the countie of Bedf[ord] sayeth apon hys honesty and fydelite that he never knew or ded kno any maner of gyfte of the cross of sylver and gylte, the crewtes, chalys or the westmentes and suyte of cloth of golde and damaske to the chyrche of Wyllington aforesayde, but sayeth that the seyd ornamenteis where used in the seyd chyrche on hye dayes, and where broughth from the house of Wylliam Gostwyke, and so caryed home ayein when, services whas done, and further sayeth that the presentment wych he consented unto whas onlye apon the presentment of John Gostwycke, John Myten and Thomas Myten, he seyd presley that theyr whas a gyfte made by Sir John Gostwycke and seyd theyr whas an invertorye theyrof made but of hys knolege he knew none for that whas before he whas vyker theyr and that he sayeth to be the trewth.

By me Syr Jho. Small,

Nycholas Luke,  
Lewyes Dyve.

Robert Osmond of Wylyngton one of the seyd presentors sayeth on hys fydelite that he never saw the foresayde ornamenteis nor no parte of them, nor never knew of any gyfte or invertorye of the same, but sayeth that presentment wych he joyned wyth the others whas only apon the sayeng

of John Gostwycke and Thomas Myten, for he sayeth he whas but a servant wyth John Myten in Sir John Gostwyk tyme in the seyd towne and this he wylle abyde bye at all tymes.

Nycholas Luke,

Lewyes Dyve.

John Couper of the seyd towne of Wallyngton and one of the seyd presenters sayeth on hys honesty in all thyngs savyng he have sene them caryed in the chyrche and so caryed into the house of Sir John Gostwycke as Robert Osmond afore hathe sayde that he wylle stonde unto.

Jhon Cowper.

Nycholas Luke,  
Lewyes Dyve.

Sir William Wardd alias Biddenham, clerke, of the ayge of lxxvij yeares or therabowte, sworn and examyned, that he kepinge the cure ther a year and a half in Sir John Goswikes tyme, and chapleyne ther in the house for the space of xvij years, deposethe that as touchinge the cooppe, vestment deacon and subdeacon, of clothe of gold, the swett of vestmentes of whight damaske, specfyed and mentioned in the same presentment, he of his propre knowledg never knewe none suche ther duringe all his abide ther, and as to the crosse of silver and gillt enameled, a payr of cruettes of silver, a chalece of sylver and parcell gillt, he deposethe that the same wer the proper goodes of the same Sir John Gostwike, and were brought to the churche upon hieth festivall days : and at night caried home again to the mannor house as the propre goodes of the same Sir John, also he wold lend certein of theim to certein other townes wher he was lord of, and brought home againe to his house at night. And also the said Sir John never in his liff tyme did geve, sell, nor bequethe, neyther the said crosse, cruettes nor chalice of silver, nor any of theim to the churche of Willington aforsaid, nor to the churchwardons ther, to the use of the said churche, by wordd, wyll, nor wrytinge, for he saithe he was with the same Sir John untyll he dyed.

And farther he deposythe that throwght the craftines of one William Nyxe ther, beinge parisshe clerke, and after

him one John Dawes, beinge also parisse clerke, ther wer certein vestmentes or ornamente esbeseled to the value of iiiijor powndes or ther abowtes, wherupon the said Sir John comawnded a inventory to be made, that if in case any of theim at any tyme after wer lakinge, that the clerk for the tyme beinge and the churchwardons also, shuld be always answerable to the said Sir John Gostwik for the same. And that in confirmation of this present deposition the said Sir William Wardd hathe here unto subscribed his name withe his owne propre hand.

by me William Wardd, clerk,  
Nycholas Luke,  
Lewyes Dyve.

Thomas Leigh of Caldewell in the countie of Bedd[ford] esquier, of the age of xl yeres or there aboute, sworne and examyned, deposeth, That from the xxixth yere of the raigne of Kynge Henrye the Eight untill the daie of the dethe of Sir John Gostwike, he was for the most parte resiaunt and abidyng with the said Sir John Gostwik, and as to the crosse of silver gylt, a paire of crewettes of silver, and the chalice of silver and parcell gylt, mentioned in a presentment to him redde, he deposeth and saieth that the same were the mere propre gooddes of Sir John Gostwik, and never at any tyme by the life of the saide Sir John by him geven nor bequethed, nether to the churche of Willington, nor yet to the churche-wardeyns there, nor to any other persone or personnes there, to the use of the saide churche as he dothe very certeinlye know. But he saieth that the saide Sir John meny tymes of a devoute christien mynde wold commaunde and assigne the saide crosse, cruettes and chalice to be caried, used, and occupied to and in the churche of Willington on holydaies and solemp feastes, and that at night they were brought home to his owne howse there and alwaies remaigned in the charge and custodye of his servaunt as parcell of his mere propre goddes and plate. And also he further saieth as to the cope, vesture, decon and subdeacon, of clothe of golde, and the suite of vestmentes of white damaske mentioned and specefied in the saide presentment, that during all the saide tyme of his abode with the saide Sir John he never knew nor saw any suche in the custodye or possession of the saide

Sir John. And that in confirmation of this present deposicion  
the said Thomas Leigh hathe herunto subscribed his name  
with his owne propre hande

per me Thomam Leigh. manu propria.  
Nicholas Luke, Lewyes Dyve.

Wylliam Denn of Bletsoo in the county of Bedford, yoman,  
of the agge of fyfty yeares, somtymes servaunt to Sir John  
Gostwik deceased, sworn and examyned, deposeth that as  
touchinge the coppe, vestment, deacon and subdeacon, of  
clothe of golld, worthe xxli or above, the swett of vestmentes  
of whight damaske, price iiiij or markes, specified and men-  
tioned in the said presentment, he of his propre notice, cer-  
tainly knowethe that the said Sir John Gostwik hadd none  
suche in his possession duringe the space of viij yeares  
befor his dethe, and as to the crosse of syllver and gylt  
enameled, a payre of cruettes of sillver, a chalece of syllver  
and parsell gillt, he deposethe, that the same Sir John Gost-  
wik hadd of his own propre goodes, and sometymes the said  
Sir John wolld commawnd the same at hie the festivall days to  
be browght to the churche, and ther to be sett on the hieth  
aulter, and used and occupied to the better adorninge and  
decoratinge of the churche, to the greter honor and glory of  
God. And at every suche tyme he wolld have the same  
crosse, cruettes, and chalice brought home in to his howse  
of Willington at or before night of the same day and the  
same were keppt in the custody of him, that had the rest of  
his platte and wer accompted of all men as his own propre  
goodes and platte. And also that the said Sir John never  
in his liff tyme did gev, sell, nor bequethe, neither the said  
crosse, cruettes nor chalice of sillver, nor any of them to the  
church of Willington aforsaid, nor to the churchwardons  
ther to the use of the said churche by word, wyll, nor  
wryting, for he saythe he was withe and abowte the same Sir  
John untyll he dyed, and that in confirmation of this  
present deposition the said William Denn hathe herunto  
subscribed his name with his owne propre hand.

Wylliam Denn.  
Nycholas Luke. Lewys Dyve.

William Fayry of Willington in the county of Bedford, yoman, of the age of fifty yeares or ther aboute, and howshold servaunte withe Sir John Gostwike for the space of xiiij yeares, and after parishinoner in the same towne xiiij yeares, sworn and examyned, deposethe that as touching the coppe, vestment, decon and subdecon, of clothe of gold, the swet of vestmentes of whight damask specyfyd and mentioned in the same presentment, he of his propre notice never knewe none suche ther all the said space, and as to the crosse of sillver and gillt enameled, a payre of cruettes of silver, a chalice of silver and parsell gillt, he deposethe, that thei were the proper goodes of the said Sir John Gostwik, and somtymes the said Sir John wold lend theim to the churche upon festivall days, and ther to be used and occupedy, and at night brought home againe to the manor howse, farther he saythe that in all the said space, he never hard that the said Sir John did gyve, sell, nor bequethe, neither the said crosse, cruettes, nor chalice of sillver, nor any of theim to the churche of Willington aforsaid, nor to the churchwardens ther to the use of the said churche, by word, wyll, nor wrytinge, for he hathe continewed in the same towne, the space of xxvij yeares. Also the said William saithe that one John Dawes, somtyme being clerk ther and William Sangle, churchwardens, lost certein vestmentes wherupon Sir John Gostwik commawdid a inventory to be mad that the clerk for the tyme beinge and the churchwardens for the tyme beinge shulld be accomptable at all tymes for the same. And that in confirmation of this present deposition the said William Fayry have sett to his hand.

Nycholas Luke.  
Lewyes Dyve.

Thomas Smallwodd of Willington in the County of Bedf[ord] yoman, beinge of the age of xl yeares or therabowte dewllinge and abidinge in Willington for the space [of] xxx yeares, sworn and examyned, that as touchinge the coppe of vestment, deacon and subdecon of clothe of gold, the swet of vestmentes of whight damask specyfyd and mentioned in the same presentment, he of his propre notice never knewe none suche ther duringe all the said tyme, and as to the crosse of silver and gillt enameled, a payre of cruettes of

sillver, a chalice of silver and parcell gyllt, he deposethe, that thei wer at all tymes the goodes and plat of Sir John Gostwike, and at all tymes remayninge in the manore howse sawinge upon certein festivall days, hit was brought to the churche and ther occupied and used, and at night brought home againe to the manor howse againe, and that Sir John Gostwike in all his lif tyme did nether geve, sell, nor bequethe the said crosse, cruettes, or chalice of silver nor any of theim to the churche of Willington aforsaid, nor to the churchwardons ther, to the use of the said churche, by wordd wyll, nor wrytynge. And that in confirmation of this present depotision, the said Thomas hathe herunto sett to his hand.

Nycholas Luke.

Lewyes Dyve.

Henry Fissher of Rouhall in the county of Bedford, yoman, beinge of the age of xl ix yeares or ther abowte, somtymes servaunt to Sir John Gostwike, knight, deceased, sworn and examyned, deposythe that as touchinge the coppe, vestment, deacon and subdeacon, of clothe of gold, the swett of vestmentes of whight damaske, specified and mentioned in the sayd presentmente, he of his propre notice never knewe none suche ther during the space of xvij yeares, for so longe he hathe ben servaunt, and always resyaunt in the howse of Willington. And as to the crosse of sillver and gyllt enameled, a payre of cruettes of sillver, a chalice of silver and parcell gillt, he deposythe that the same Sir John Gostwike hadd of his ownn propre goodes, and somtymes the said Sir John wold commawnd the same at hiethe festivall days to be brought to the churche and ther to be sett upon the hieith alter, and used and occupied to the better adorninge and decoratinge of the said churche, and at every suche tyme he wold have the same crosse, cruettes and chalice, brought home in to his howse of Willington at or befor night of the same day, and the same were kepte in the custody of him that hadd the rest of his platte, and wer accompted of all men as his owne propre goodes and platte. Allso that the said Sir John never in his lif did geve, sell, nor bequethe, neyther the said crosse, cruettes nor chalice of silver, nor to the churche, nor to the church-

wardons ther, to the use of the said churche, by wordd, will, nor wrytinge, for he saythe he was with and abowte the same Sir John untill he dyed. And that in confirmation of this present depotision the said Henry Fissher hathe herunto subscribed his name with his owne prope hand.

Harry Fysser.

Nycholas Luke.  
Lewyes Dyve.

William Bingham of Willington in the countie of Bedford, yoman, beinge of the agge of liij yeares or ther abowte, and clerke of the same parisshe for the space of xj yeares or ther abowte, sworn and examyned, that as touchinge the coppē of cloth of gold, vestment, deacon and subdeacon, of clothe of gold, the swet of whight vestmentes of whight damaske, price iiiij or markes, he is very certein and sure that ther was none suche duringe all the sayd space of xj yeares, and as to the crosse of sylver and gillt enamelyd, a payre of cruettes of silver, a chalice of silver and parsell gillt, he deposethe that thei wer at all tymes remayninge in the howse, and somtyme brought upon festivall days to the church and ther occupied to the settinge forthe of Godes service, and at night brought home againe to the manore howse, and that hit was never accompted ne taken as none of the churchis of Willington ne none of the parisshe at any tyme mad cleim therof untill now of late. And that in confirmation of this present depotision the said William hathe subscribed his name withe his owne hand.

Wylliam Byngam.

Nycholas Luke. Lewyes Dyve.

John Croker of Willington in the county of Bedford, servingman, of the agge of forty years or ther abowte, comynge to service to Willington howse immediately after the deathe of Sir John Gostwik, and ther hathe contynued for the space of xj years, sworn and examyned, that as touchinge the coppē, vestmente, deacon and subdeacon, of clothe of gold, the swett of vestmentes of whight damaske, he certeinly knoweth that at suche tyme as Mr. William Gostwik, esquier, did entre upon the howse and goodes of Sir John

Gostwike, that ther was no suche ther, for he was ther presente at the delyvery of the same. And as touchinge the crosse of sylver and gyllt enameled, a payre of cruettes of sylver, a chalice of sylver and parcell gilt, he deposeth that the said William Gostwike hadd theim allways in his howse as his owne propre goodes, and somtyme at hiethe festivall days wold command theim to be brought to the churche, ether by one of his servautes or elles by the clerk, and ther to be occupied and used to the better maytennaces of Godes service, and to the bewtifyng of the churche, and at night thei were all brought home againe unto the manor howse at or before night of the same day, for he saythe that he hathe delivered theim and receved theim dyvers and sondry tymes to the churche and from the churche, and that in all the said space of  $xj$  yeares, was never accompted as any of the churchis nether never none of the parissh made any claime unto theim, untill nowe of late, one John Gostwik with other of a malitius and devlisshe mynd intendynge to put the said Sir Thomas Verney and the Lady Anne his wif to troble, did cawse this same presentment to be made and sett forthe, as it is evidently knownen bothe in the towne and also in the countrey, notwithstandingynge the said John Gostwike did set forthe a contrary presentment, and was sworn himself to the same befor Fraunces Pigotte, esquier, Edward Peke, George Ackworthe, and John Colbecke, gent., commissioners. And that in confirmation of this present deptonition the said John hathe subscribed his name with his owne propre hand.

Per me Johannem Croker.

Nycholas Luke.  
Lewyes Dyve.

[Endorsed]

For the plate and ornamente in Willington in  
Com[County] Bedf[ord] parcell of Mr. Greyes Accompt.

## APPENDIX I.

## [Woburn Abbey]

## Woburn Pryorye

The inventory of the goodes and chattalles of the seid  
pryorye made the      day of August in the xxviiij<sup>th</sup> yere  
of the reign of o<sup>r</sup> sovereign lord kyng Henry the viii<sup>th</sup>

## ORNAMENTES OF THE CHIRCH

First a crosse of cooper and gylt . with<sup>1</sup> a lytyll<sup>1</sup> image of  
Cryst beyng sylver hangyng upon the same crosse<sup>1</sup> ——ijs  
iiijsd<sup>1</sup>

Item upon the high alter ij lynyn alter clothes upon the  
alter and on steyned alter cloth hangyng before the high  
alter——vijd.

Item ij laten candelstykes stondyng before the high alter  
——ijs.

Item one old writen masse boke and a litill pryned  
masboke——ijli

Item in the vestry . a coope a vestment complete very  
olde with deacon and subdeacon complete all of whight  
damask . of old w<sup>r</sup>kyng callyd dubbyll damask——vjs  
vijd

Item an old coope a vestment complete with deacon and  
subdeacon complete all of blak for messe of requiem——ijl.

Item an old coope of grene sylk with white fustyan orffras  
——xijd

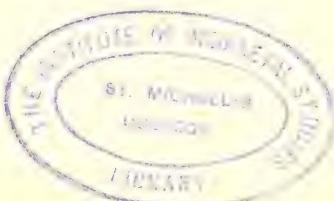
Item a nother old coope of sylk with orffras of blak and  
sterres in yt——vijd

Item a white vestment of fustyan for lent——vijd

Item a nother white vestment with a crucyfyx upon it  
——xxd

Item ij old chesybillies for vestmentes without albys——  
vijd

Item a lytyll coffer with a crosse in it coveryd with  
plates of sylver and sett with cristalles and other stonyss  
wherin ys a pece of the holy crosse and iiii other lytyll



crosses plated with sylver and stones in them and other  
relykes <sup>1</sup> of small value preysid at——iijs iiijd<sup>1</sup>

In the Chapell of or Lady a lynnен alter cloth upon the  
alter and a steyned cloth before the alter——iiijd

Item in the quere oon antyphoner beside other old bokes  
—ijd

[The remainder of the inventory deals with hall, kitchen,  
the contents of the brewhouse, etc.]

## APPENDIX II.

RETURN OF DEFACED PLATE FROM BEDFORDSHIRE DE-  
LIVERED INTO THE JEWEL HOUSE BETWEEN 1ST JUNE,  
1553, AND 4TH FEBRUARY, 1554.

(Ex. K. R. Church Goods, <sup>11</sup>/<sub>3</sub>).

Cou[n]tie Bedforde.

Brought into the Juelhouse by Nicholas Luke Barron of  
the Exchequers Lewis Davye and Richard Snowe Com-  
missioners there in plate——m<sup>li</sup> iiij<sup>c</sup> iiiij<sup>xx</sup> of undefacid

Being defacid Remayne.

In guilte	v <sup>c</sup>	iiiij <sup>xx</sup>	xv oz	} m <sup>li</sup> iiij <sup>c</sup> iiiij <sup>xx</sup> viij oz
In parcell guilt	viij <sup>c</sup>	iiiij <sup>xx</sup>	xij oz	

<sup>1</sup> Wast iiij<sup>xx</sup> xij oz<sup>1</sup>

Receavid more of the same Nycholas Lewke and other a  
litill putse embrawderid and garnishid with small buttons of  
silver and guilt having in it six old grottes.

<sup>1</sup>—<sup>1</sup> In Margin.

## APPENDIX II.

Abbat, Nicholas -	-	-	6	Crawley, Edward	22, 23, 27
Ackworthe, George -	-	-	39	” John	23, 27
Alcoke, Thomas -	-	11,	12	Croker, John	38, 39
Aldryche, Roger -	-	-	30	Davye, John	-
Alyson, William -	-	-	3	Dawes, John	-
Andropere, William -	-	-	30	Daye, Leonard	-
Androw, William -	-	-	8	Denn, William	-
Barlee, Edmonde -	-	-	2	Dyve, Lewis	ix, 32 <i>et seq.</i>
Bercocke, James -	-	-	11	Dyx, Rowland	-
Berners, William -	-	18	<i>et seq.</i>	Ebbes, William	-
Bett, Reynolde -	-	-	15	Edwardes, John	-
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